(b) how this assessment is done;

(c) whether there is an increasing trend in social costs;

(d) what is the reason for this increase In social costs; and

(e) what is being done to prevent the increase in social costs?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) The estimated figure of Social cost for 1994-95 amount to Rs. 1515 crores.

(b) The methodology of assessing the amount of social cost on Indian Railways is as under: —

(i) The losses on the freight services for carrying the essential commodities at rates below cost are assessed.

(ii) The losses on suburban services in 3 Metropolitan cities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are assessed.

(iii) The loss on non-suburban coaching services are also assessed.

From the total of (i), (ii) and (iii) above the cost of stac welfare measures and law and order costs are deducted to arrive at the "net social cost" for the Indian Railways. The estimated figures for 1994-95 are based on the projections made in the revised estimates of the Railway Budget for 1995-96.

(c) and (d) The quantum of social cost for 1992-93 and 1993-94 were Rs. 1548.50 crores and Rs. 1216.50 crores respectively. The estimated amount of social cost for 1994-95 comes to Rs. 1515 crores. No clear cut trend is discernable In the quantum of social cost as such.

(e) Some of the important measures taken by the Indian Railways to contain social costs are as under: -

(i) Rationalisation of freight tariffs from time to time.

(ii) Restructuring of passengers, season tickets fares and concessions etc.

Completion of gauge conversion work

3742. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gauge conversion work has been completed by some Zonal Railways during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the names of areas of conversion, zone-wise separately, during each year with estimated expenditure incurred on each conversion;

(c) whether Government propose to convert more areas into unigauge during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(d) if so, the names of such areas, zone-wise separately during each year with estimated cost of each conversion;

(e) whether some areas converted for unigauge during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 belong to U.P.;

(f) whether areas to be covered for unigauge during 1995-96 and 1996-97 also belong to U.P.; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor separtely?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Technical assistance Agreements between the Railways and U N D P

3743. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether some technical assistance agreements have been signed with the UNDP;